

FORM B – BUILDING

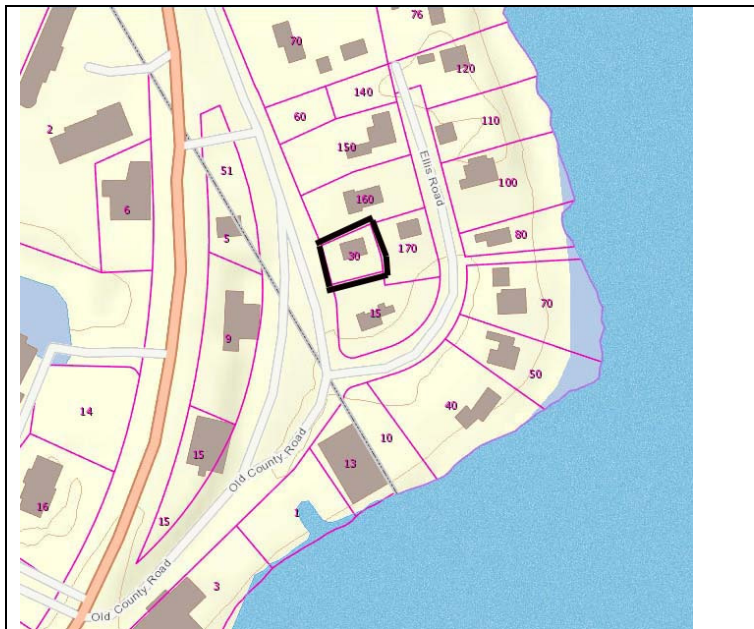
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View from west.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: May 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

22-4A

ORLEANS

EAS.615

Town/City: Eastham

Place: South Eastham

Address: 30 Old State Highway

Historic Name: Lewis W. & Beryl Eldredge House

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: c. 1930

Source: tax records

Style/Form: Craftsman/front gable

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: parged with concrete (possibly brick)

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (with dates): none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.11 acre

Setting: The subject property is located on the east side of Old State Highway, one lot north of its intersection with Ellis Road. Single family residences surround the property on the north, east and south, while commercial uses are located across the street, Old County Road.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

30 OLD STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.615

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This small 1-story wood frame cottage is a simple rendition of the Craftsman Cottage style with a Cape Cod twist given its wood shingle cladding and wood corner boards. It has a front gable roof with a shed-roofed dormer on its south side and a small brick center chimney. (The front gable form is particularly suited to small lots with narrow frontage such as this one.) There are exposed rafter ends, a characteristic of the Craftsman style that became widely popular in this period, as are the original four-over-one double hung windows with vertical muntins.¹ The windows are generally paired throughout. Interestingly, the three-bay front facade is asymmetrically organized with corner windows to the left of and adjoining the entrance door, which has a nine-light window over two vertical panels. A small one-story lean-to serves as a rear entrance vestibule. This house is essentially intact and retains its historic architectural character. (No building permits are on file for this property.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

According to tax records, the house at 30 Old State Highway was built about 1930 by Lewis W. Eldredge on the first of several house-lot purchases he made of Gilbert Ellis. The subject property was lot 26 in a twenty-seven-lot subdivision platted by Gilbert E. Ellis of Brewster in April 1925. Ellis was a farmer, realtor, and owner of a shore net and pound fishery and was born in Brewster in 1867; his father, Thaddeus, was a fisherman, and his mother, Caroline J. Norway, was born in Spain. Ellis began his career as a store clerk when he was fourteen, if not younger, and at the time of his marriage in 1887 he worked as a salesman. The 1900 census shows Ellis as a fisherman; the 1910 census shows him more specifically as a weir fisherman. He was among a declining number of Cape fishermen in what was termed the "shore net and pound fishery," which used large nets attached to a wood framework extending from the shore outward to catch such inshore schooling fish as herring and menhaden; these were sold as bait to the offshore fishing industry, and other species caught in the nets were sold to urban fresh-fish markets after rail lines reached the Cape in the 1870s. In 1914 the town of Brewster granted Ellis a permit to build six fish pounds in its coastal waters, and by 1920 Ellis was one of three Brewster men who ran a pound fishery; he employed seven men, among the most of any of the 43 pound fisheries in the state, and caught \$3100 of fish.²

Once a prosperous industry on Cape Cod, the pound fishery began to decline after World War I, and by 1920 Ellis was probably preparing to leave the industry. The 1920 census shows him as a farmer, and by 1929 he is listed as a realtor. In September 1924 he bought four acres in South Eastham bordered mostly by State Highway, Town Cove, and what was, for a brief time, a canal that connected Town Cove to the river at Boat Meadow on Cape Cod Bay, a distance of less than a mile.³ Ellis acquired the tract from New York City insurance broker Frederick Dorflinger Suydam, whose father, William Farrington Suydam, was an affluent Pennsylvania silk manufacturer and a summer resident of Orleans. The tract was part of the far larger holdings of Captain Heman Smith and his wife Louisiana Crosby Smith, who lived at 70 Old State Highway (EAS.43). In 1881, five years after the Smiths were lost at sea in the wreck of the bark *Burnside*, their children sold the property to their sibling Francis M. Smith (1852-1922), who in 1898 sold it to Somerville carpenter George S. Newcomb, an Orleans native. In 1913 Newcomb's son, George E. Newcomb, sold the four-acre tract to Albert F. Sherman, superintendent of the quarantine station on Gallup's Island in Boston Harbor, and in 1916 Sherman and his wife sold it to Frederick Suydam's mother, Mary Elizabeth Dorflinger Suydam.⁴

By January 1926 Ellis had built a house—what is now 76 Old State Highway—on the northernmost 1.5 acres of the tract, and in July 1930 he sold the subject property, facing Old State Highway, to Eldredge. Born in March 1906 in Brewster, Lewis Winfred Eldredge was the son of Judah and Grace Gould Eldredge; his father was a garage mechanic, and by 1930 Lewis was a hardware salesman and living in his parents' Orleans household. He may have acquired his first lot from Ellis in anticipation of his marriage (though a date of his marriage has not been located). In any case, by 1931 Eldredge had built a house and garage at 30 Old State Highway; tax records valued them together at \$2500 in 1931. According to the 1940 census, by 1935 Eldredge was living in this house with his wife Gwendolyn Beryl Moody Eldredge, known as "Beryl," then thirty-five years old. Beryl Eldredge was born in Boston in 1904, the daughter of chef George B. Moody and Canada native Matilda Stimson. She was a teacher in Arlington in 1928, but by 1930 she had moved to Orleans, where she also taught.

¹ Craftsman-style windows are more typical with three-over-one vertical muntins, but it has been noted that a number of these Craftsman Cottages in this survey have four-over-one sash, which may be a regional preference.

² On the pound fishery, see Matthew McKenzie, *Clearing the Coastline: The Nineteenth-Century Ecological & Cultural Transformation of Cape Cod* (Hanover, NH, and London: University Press of New England, 2010), especially 11-12, 33, 91, 96, 138-39, 164, 172; *Thirty-Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners For the Year 1914* (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1915), 100; and "Returns from the Shore Net and Pound Fisheries for the Year 1920," *Annual Report of the Division of Fisheries and Game for the Year Ending November 30, 1920* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1921), 151-58.

³ Alice A. Lowe, comp., *Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham*, 4th ed. (Eastham, MA: Eastham Historical Society, 1968), 35-36, states that the canal was dug in 1804 through "land following very nearly the boundary line between the towns of Eastham and Orleans" and became known as "Jeremiah's Gutter" where it crossed the property of Jeremiah Smith. A shallow channel, the canal filled quickly, and in 1817 the Eastham and Orleans Canal Proprietors built a wider one, but it was abandoned at some unstated later date.

⁴ William H. Smith, Boston; Mary M. Smith and Nellie J. Smith, all formerly of Eastham, to Francis M. Smith, 1 November 1881, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 148:366; Francis M. Smith, Somerville, to George S. Newcomb, 5 November 1898, BCD 296:12; George S. Newcomb to George E. Newcomb, 28 May 1909, BCD 296:105; George E. Newcomb to Albert F. Sherman, Boston, 6 January 1913, BCD 321:21; Albert F. and Emma L. Sherman to Mary E. Suydam, Montclair NJ, 15 August 1916, BCD 345:440; Frederick D. Suydam, NYC, to Gilbert E. Ellis, East Brewster, 4 September 1924, BCD 409:454.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

30 OLD STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.615

Through several purchases between 1937 and 1946, Lewis Eldredge acquired other lots in the Ellis subdivision—numbers 15, 16, 17, and 27—and by 1954 owned two cottages on these parcels, one now 170 Ellis (built about 1935, and probably acquired for his mother-in-law Matilda Moody, who was a grantee with her daughter and son-in-law on the deed for that parcel) and the other at 15 Ellis.⁵ Tax records for 1947 identify his “homestead land,” being 30 Old State Highway, as lots 27, 15, and 16. The 1940 census shows him on Old King’s Highway as a hardware salesman owning \$3000 in real property. Tax records for 1954 show Eldredge owning three dwellings—one on his “homestead land” at 30 Old State Highway, one at 170 Ellis Road, and a “cottage” on lot 15, now 15 Ellis Road.

Lewis Eldredge died in June 1984, and his widow was living in one of the Ellis Road houses in 1985. She subdivided the property in December 1989.⁶ Beryl Eldredge died in September, 1990, and in July, 1992, Kenneth R. and Doris T. Eldredge of Orleans and Hollis L. and Dorothy P. Eldredge of Brewster sold their interest in 30 Old State Highway and 170 Ellis Road to Peter J. and Susan Kavanaugh of East Orleans and Kurt W. Kavanaugh, who then lived at 50 Ellis Road.⁷ Peter J. Kavanaugh is the current owner of these properties.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Barnstable County Registry of Deeds. Deeds and Subdivision Maps.

Deyo, Simeon L., ed. *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 1620-1890*. New York: H. W. Blake, 1890.

Dudley, Dean (1823-1906). *Historical Sketches of the Towns and Cities of Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, Mass.* Wakefield, MA: Dean Dudley, 1873.

Freeman, Frederick (1799-1883). *The History of Cape Cod: The Annals of Barnstable County and of its Several Towns, Including the District of Mashpee*. 2 vols. Boston : Printed for the author by Geo C. Rand & Avery, 1860-1862.

Kittredge, Henry C. *Cape Cod: Its People and Their History*. 1930. Reprint. Orleans, MA: Parnassus Imprints, 1968.

Lowe, Alice Albert. *Nauset on Cape Cod: A History of Eastham*. Falmouth, MA: Eastham Historical Society. 1968.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation, Cape Cod Commission, and Boston University. *Heritage Landscape Inventory Report: Eastham, Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, December 2010.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. “Reconnaissance Survey Report: Eastham.” Typescript, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, 1984.

McKenzie, Matthew. *Clearing the Coastline: The Nineteenth-Century Ecological and Cultural Transformation of Cape Cod*. Hanover, NH, and London: University Press of New England, 2010.

Pratt, Enoch. *A Comprehensive History, Ecclesiastical and Civil of Eastham, Wellfleet and Orleans, County of Barnstable, Mass., from 1644-1844*. Yarmouth, MA: W. S. Fisher and Company, 1844.

Thompson, Elroy Sherman. *History of Plymouth, Norfolk and Barnstable Counties, Massachusetts*. 3 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1928.

Trayser, Donald G. *Eastham, Massachusetts, 1651-1951: Eastham's Three Centuries*. Lexington, MA: Hancock Press for Eastham Tercentenary Committee, 1951.

MAPS

Walling, Henry F. *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Massachusetts Based upon the Trigonometrical Survey of the State*. New York: D. R. Smith and Co., 1858.

Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts Compiled and Corrected by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray. Boston: Stedman, Brown and Lyon, 1871.

Atlas of Barnstable County, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker and Co., 1880.

Atlas of Massachusetts from Topographical Surveys Made in Co-operation by the United States Geological Survey and the Commissioners of the Commonwealth 1884-1888. Boston: Commissioners of the Commonwealth, 1890.

Atlas of Barnstable County, Massachusetts . . . from Official Plans and Actual Surveys. Boston: Walker Lithograph and Publishing Co., 1905, 1910.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES

⁵ Gilbert E. Ellis to Lewis W. Eldredge, July 1930, BCD 476:87; Ellis to Eldredge, August 1937, BCD 529:279. Ellis also sold Eldredge a strip of land along lot 16 in February 1941; see BCD 575:473; Richard N. Greenwood, Gardner, to Lewis W. and G. Beryl Eldredge and Matilda A. Moody, all Eastham, 5 July 1946, BCD 650:501.

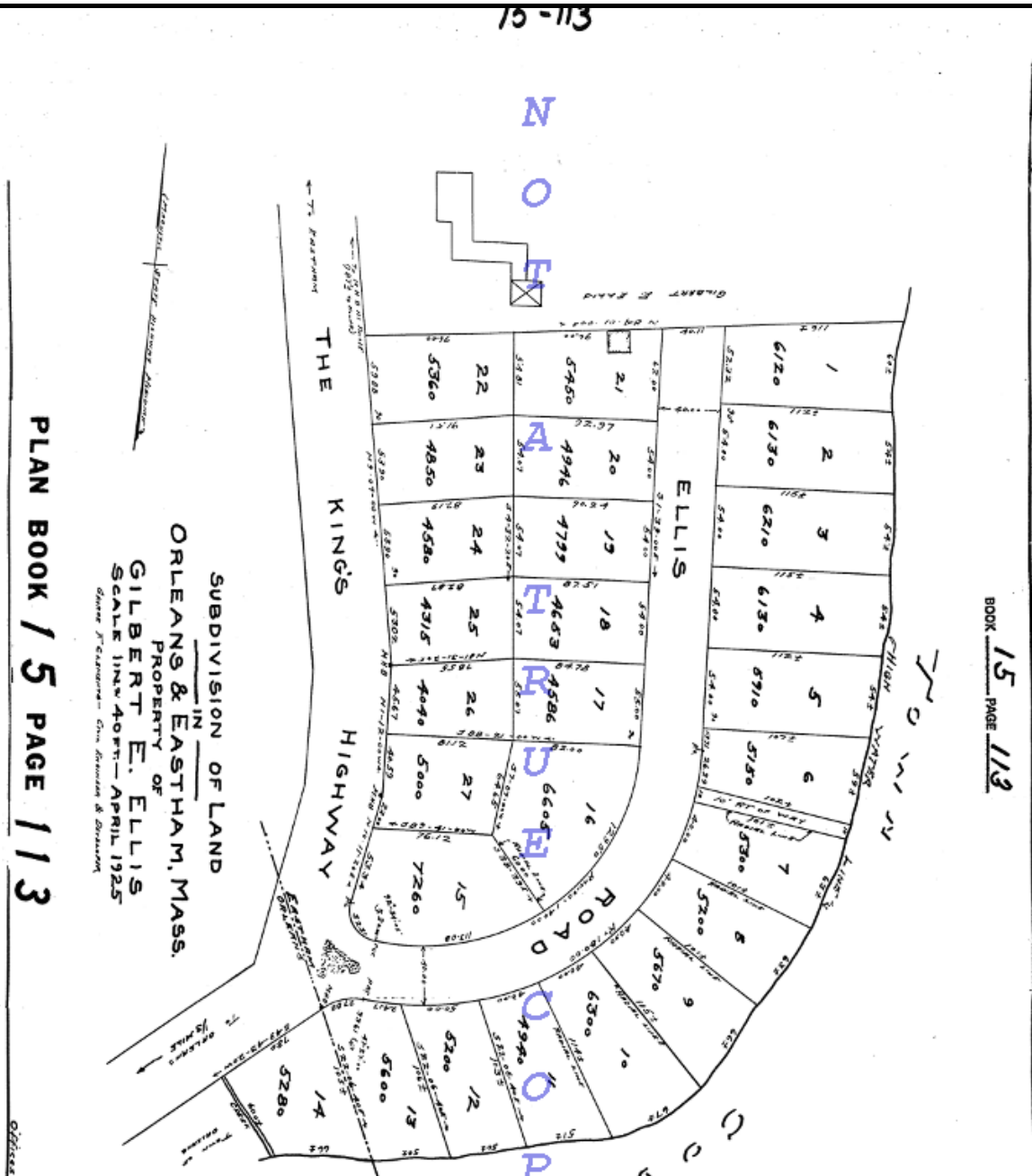
⁶ “Plan of Land in Eastham Mass Prepared for G. Beryl Eldredge,” 20 December 1989, BCP 469:14.

⁷ Doris T. Eldredge, executor will G. Beryl Eldredge, to James E. Doherty III and Heidi Dedrick-Doherty, Cranston RI, 12 August 1991, BCD 7655:086; James E. Doherty III and Heidi Dedrick-Doherty, Tombstone AZ, to Matthew J. and Jamie M. Rivers, Orleans, 14 August 2009, BCD 23964:124.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.615



Ellis subdivision plan of 1925 (BCP 15:113): 30 State Highway occupies Lot 26.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

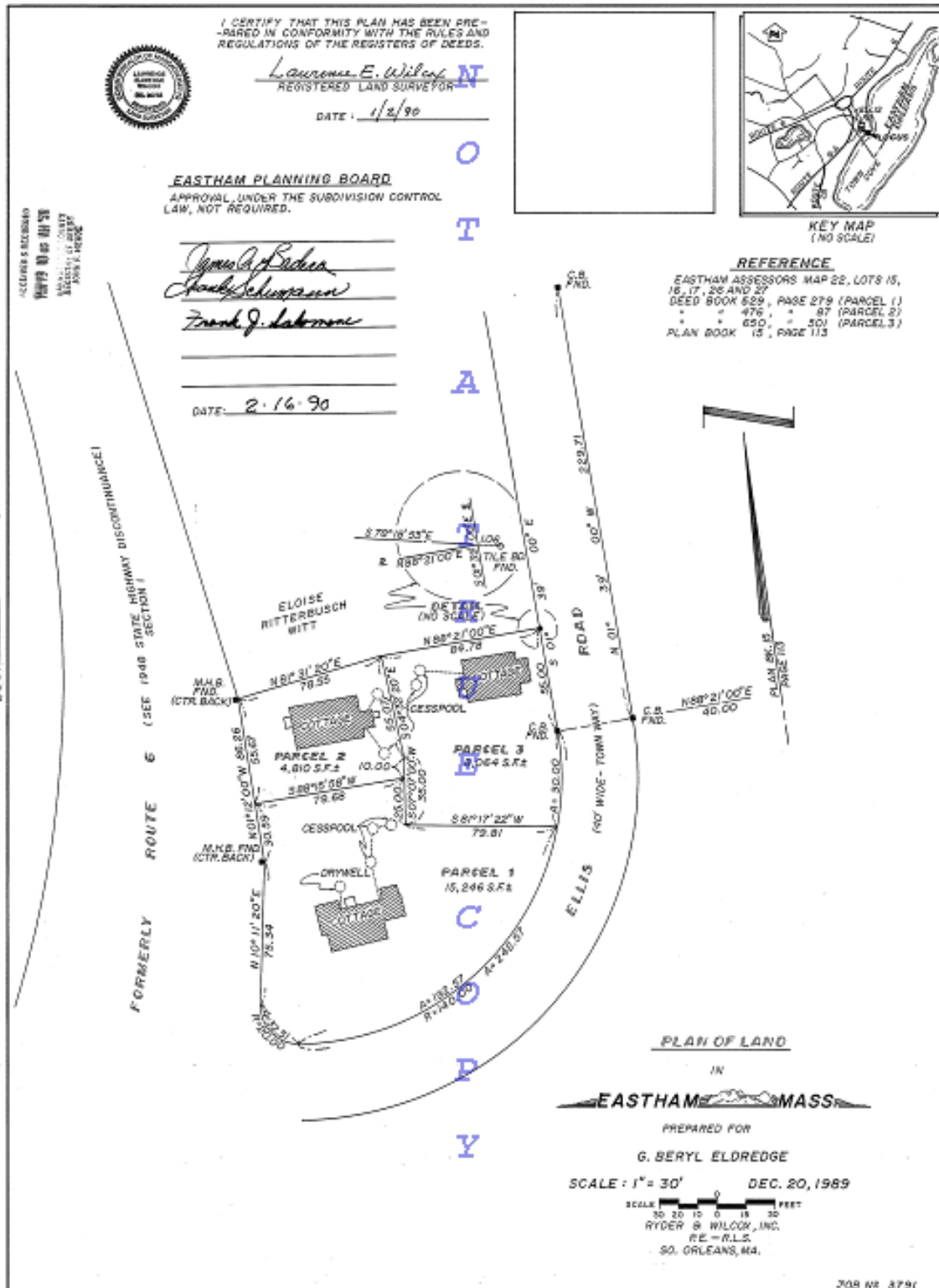
EASTHAM

30 OLD STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.615



Eldredge subdivision plan of 1989: 30 State Highway is Parcel 2.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

30 OLD STATE HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	EAS.615
--	---------

PHOTOGRAPHS
(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)



View of rear from southeast.



View from southwest.